



Appl. No. 10/630,008
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original)

A method of installing a valve between an inlet and an outlet pipe comprising:

providing a valve having a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including an inlet port at a first end of said passage through said valve, said inlet port fixed in position relative to said housing, said inlet port leading to said first portion of said passage through said valve, said valve further including an extendable member permanently coupled to said housing, said extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising an outlet port of said valve at a second end of said passage through said valve and said second end of said extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said extendable member movable within said housing, said extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said extendable member between said outlet port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said inlet port to said outlet port;

connecting said inlet port of said valve to said inlet pipe;

moving said first end of said extendable member into a position in which it mates with said outlet pipe, said position of said outlet port of said valve changing relative to said housing; and

connecting said outlet port of said valve to said outlet pipe.

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2. (Original)

The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said moving step comprises sliding said extendable member with respect to said housing.

3. (Currently amended)

The method in accordance with Claim 2 [1] wherein said sliding is accomplished by pulling or pushing said extendable member.

4. (Original)

An adjustable control valve adapted to be located between a pair of piping elements which may be of various distances apart, said valve comprising a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including an inlet port at a first end of said passage through said valve, said inlet port fixed in position relative to said housing, said inlet port leading to said first portion of said passage through said valve, said valve further including an extendable member permanently coupled to said housing, said extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising an outlet port of said valve at a second end of said passage through said valve and said second end of said extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said extendable member movable within said housing, said extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said extendable

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member between said outlet port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said inlet port to said outlet port.

5. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said inlet and outlet ports are positioned at opposing ends of said valve and are generally axially aligned.

6. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said second end of said extendable member is slidably mounted within said housing.

7. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said second end of said extendable member is slidably mounted in a part of said first portion of said passage through said valve defined by said housing.

8. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 including at least one seal for sealing a space between said second end of said extendable member and said housing.

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9. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 including means for limiting the movement of said second end of said extendable member with respect to said housing.

10. (Currently amended)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said first portion of said passage of said valve defined by said housing has a first enlarged part and said second end of said extendable member is located in said enlarged part of said first portion of said passage.

11. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 10 wherein a first wall is defined at an interface between said first enlarged part of said first portion of said passage and a remaining portion of said passage within said housing, said interface comprising a first stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said extendable member may be extended into said housing, and including a second stop at an opposing end of said first enlarged part, said second stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said extendable member may be extended from said housing.

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12. (Original)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said extendable member has a first portion extending from said first end to said second end having a generally uniform diameter and wherein said second end has a diameter greater than said first portion.

13. (New)

A method of installing a valve between an inlet and an outlet pipe comprising:

providing a valve having a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including a first extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a first port of said valve at a first end of said passage through said valve and said second end located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said first extendable member movable within said housing, said first extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said first extendable member between said first port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, said valve including a second extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a second port of said valve located at an opposing end of said passage through said valve from said first port, said second end of said second extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said second extendable member movable within said housing, said second extendable member defining a third portion of said passage through said valve, said third portion of said passage defined by said second extendable member between said second port and said

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first portion of said passage through said housing, the length of said passage through said valve being adjustable in length by moving either or both of said first and second extendable members relative to said housing, said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said first port to said second port, said first and second extendable members permanently coupled to said housing;

moving either or both of said first and second extendable members with respect to said housing whereby said positions of either of both of said first and second ports are changed and said length of said valve is changed; and

connecting said first port and second port of said valve to said inlet and outlet pipes, respectively.

14. (New)

The method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said sliding is accomplished by pulling or pushing either of both of said first and second extendable members.

15. (New)

An adjustable control valve adapted to be located between a pair of piping elements which may be of various distances apart, said valve comprising a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including a first extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a first port of said valve at a first end of said passage through said valve and said second end located within said housing and in communication with said first

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portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said first extendable member movable within said housing, said first extendable member connected to said housing so that it may not be disconnected from said valve, said first extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said first extendable member between said first port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, a second extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising a second port of said valve located at an opposing end of said passage through said valve from said first port, said second end of said second extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said second portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said second extendable member movable within said housing, said second extendable member connected to said housing so that it may not be disconnected from said valve, said second extendable member defining a third portion of said passage through said valve, said third portion of said passage defined by said second extendable member between said second port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, the length of said passage through said valve being adjustable in length by moving either of both of said first and second extendable members relative to said housing, and said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said first port to said second port.

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16. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said second end of said first extendable member and said second end of said second extendable member is slidably mounted within said housing.

17. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said second end of said first extendable member is slidably mounted in a part of said first portion of said passage through said valve defined by said housing and said second end of said second extendable member is slidably mounted in a part of said first portion of said passage through said valve defined by said housing.

18. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 16 including at least one first seal for sealing a space between said second end of said first extendable member and said housing and at least one second seal for sealing a space between said second end of said second extendable member and said housing.

19. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 15 including means for limiting the movement of said second end of said first extendable member with respect to said housing and means for

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limiting the movement of said second end of said second extendable member with respect to said housing.

20. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said first portion of said passage of said valve defined by said housing has a first enlarged part adjacent to said first end of said valve and said second end of said first extendable member is located in said first enlarged part of said first portion of said passage and wherein said second portion of said passage of said valve defined by said housing has a second enlarged part adjacent to said second end of said valve and said second end of said second extendable member is located in said second enlarged part of said first portion of said valve.

21. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 15 wherein a first wall is defined at an interface between said first enlarged part of said first portion of said passage and a remaining portion of said passage within said housing, said first wall comprising a first stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said first extendable member may be extended into said housing, and including a second stop at an opposing end of said first enlarged part, said second stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said first extendable member may be extended from said housing, and wherein a second wall is defined at an interface between said second enlarged part of said first portion of said passage and a remaining portion of said passage within said housing, said second wall

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comprising a third stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said second extendable member may be extended into said housing, and including a fourth stop at an opposing end of said second enlarged part, said fourth stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said second extendable member may be extended from said housing.

22. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said first extendable member has a first portion extending from said first end to said second end thereof having a generally uniform diameter and wherein said second end of said first extendable member has a diameter greater than said first portion, and wherein said second extendable member has a first portion extending from said first end to said second end thereof having a generally uniform diameter and wherein said second end of said second extendable member has a diameter greater than said first portion.

23. (New)

The control valve in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said first portion of said first extendable member extends through an opening of a first dimension in said housing and said second end of said first extendable member is located in a part of said first portion of said passage defined by said housing, said part having a second dimension greater than said first dimension, whereby said first extendable member can not be extended outwardly and separate from said housing, and wherein said first portion of said second extendable member extends through an opening of a first dimension in said housing and said second end of said second extendable member is located in a part of said

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first portion of said passage defined by said housing, said part having a second dimension greater than said first dimension, whereby said second extendable member can not be extended outwardly and separate from said housing.